

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-18 remain pending in the application. New claims 19 and 20 have been added.

In numbered paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by PCT Publication No. WO 00/31964 (Jandel et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed, because the Jandel document fails to teach or suggest Applicants' invention as presently set forth in independent claims 1, 8 and 12.

Applicants' specification describes methods and apparatus for partially encrypting an information file, such as a data file of text and/or image information, for secure delivery of content. Exemplary embodiments are directed to the secure delivery of an information file which has been split into at least two separate files. Use limitations are added to the file to prevent it from being used more than an authorized number of times as described, for example, with respect to step 220 in Figure 2. Such a feature reflects an ability of the present invention to securely transmit content which can only be used by recipients in a manner prescribed by the use limitations.

In Figure 3, an exemplary information file such as the image file, 300 is divided into a first file 310 and a second file 320. The second file 320 is encrypted using a desired encryption system. The first file and the encrypted second file can be transmitted to a secure device 360 via a communication path 330, such as the Internet. The secure device 360 can decrypt the second file and combine it with the

first file to reconstruct a usable version of the original file 300 as a reconstructed image file 340.

In dividing the information file, enough content of the original file is extracted to render the first file inadequate to sufficiently reconstruct the original information file using only the first file. Figure 4 shows an exemplary method for dividing. In Figure 4, a pattern 430 is applied to an image file 410, for example as an overlay, to extract content used to form the second file 420.

Figure 5 shows an exemplary system for encrypting information for delivery. In Figure 5, a server 510 divides an information file into a first file and a second file. A device 540 transmits a public key via a local computer system 530 and network 520 to server 510, which then encrypts the second file using the device's public key, and an associated private key known in advance by the server and embedded in secure device 540. The first unencrypted file and the second encrypted file are transmitted via network 540, and can be decrypted by the device 540 using its public key and an embedded private key.

According to exemplary embodiments of the present invention, only a fraction of an information file is encrypted to secure the content of the entire information file. Both the first and second files are transmitted to reconstruct the original file and neither of the first and second files are used independently. Use limitations are included in the information file to ensure that the second file is used to reconstruct the information file in a prescribed manner. These features are encompassed by independent claims 1, 8 and 12 are neither taught nor suggested by the Jandel document.

The Jandel document is directed to partially encrypting an information file. However, this document fails to teach or suggest features of the invention as set forth in the independent claims.

The Jandel document is directed to dividing an image file into two separate sections, one which is a useable, lower resolution version of the original image that is transmitted and used independently of the other section. Jandel is not directed to the objectives of the presently claimed invention whereby an information file is divided into two files which are transmitted together and which are characterized by use limitations which prescribe the use of the two files once received and properly decrypted.

The Examiner has referenced page 8, paragraph 1 of the Jandel document as disclosing use limitations (see, for example, the rejection of claims 5, 11 and 15 in numbered paragraph 10 on page 4 of the Office action). However, the features discussed in this portion of the Jandel document are directed to a mechanism by which a recipient of a first useable section of an image file can interact with a server to receive the second section. The Jandel document does not teach or suggest providing use limitations associated with a transmitted first and second file to prevent use of the file to reconstruct an information file more than an authorized number of times.

Thus, independent claim 1 is allowable over the Jandel document. Independent claim 8 and independent claim 12, which recite similar features, are also considered allowable. The remaining claims depend from the aforementioned independent claims and recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the Jandel document.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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